

# GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

## a story of choice... Matthew 19:16-22

### Big Idea

At some point we all have to choose. Encountering Jesus leaves us no other option, we either throw everything down and follow him, or we continue in our own lives. This is what confronted the rich young ruler – was he going to give up his idols and stop living an undivided life, or was he going to lay it all down to follow after Jesus.

### Questions for Discussions

1. Do you have an undivided heart? If so, what are the things you are divided by? What are some of the directions/objects you're pulled toward?
2. Jesus warns us in [Matthew 6:21](#) *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Often what we think of most often reveals what our treasure is. How often does eternity or eternal things occupy our thoughts and how we live? What would be different in your lives if you thought more about heaven?
3. As people we like to earn or perform for what we have. Are you trying to "earn" heaven? What are the things you do to try to 'earn it'? Why is it such a struggle to receive the 'goodness' that Jesus provides for us as completely sufficient for us? If Jesus declared that 'it was finished', why do we try to add to what He already accomplished?
4. Obedience to God ought to be evident in the normal Christian life. How are you doing at obeying God? Do you view the commands of God as optional? For the 'Rich young ruler' – obedience meant: selling all he had, giving to the poor and following Jesus. What hindered his obedience was his unwillingness to part ways with his wealth. What are things in your life that hinder obedience to Jesus?
5. We are often attached to God and other things in our life – thus we live divided lives because of the idols we serve. What are some of your idols? Can these idols hold your life together and provide comfort for you? What's stopping you from getting rid of your idols?

**Practical Exercise** – write a 'Dear John Letter' to your idol(s). For an example of this, visit: [www.genesisjourney.com/blog/post/dear-john](http://www.genesisjourney.com/blog/post/dear-john)